Volume 26, No. 1, January 1994

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CAROLINA COUNTRY

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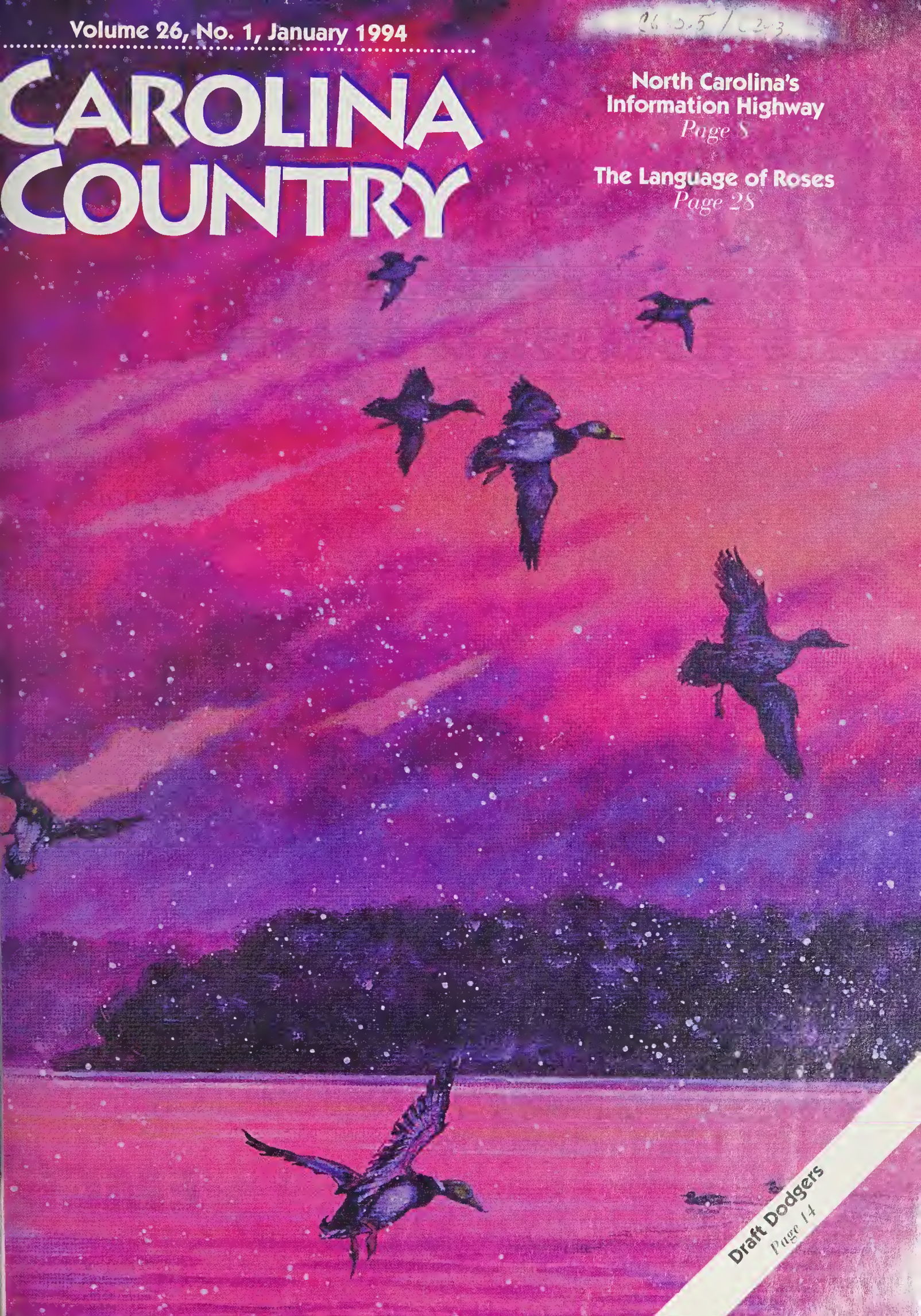

Draft Dodgers
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CAROLINA COUNTRY
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Official Publication
Carolina Electric Cooperatives

Carolina Electric Cooperatives is the network of electric cooperative organizations that provides reliable, safe and affordable electric service to 600,000 homes, farms and businesses in North Carolina. At the heart of Carolina Electric Cooperatives are the state's 28 Electric Membership Corporations, each member-owned, not-for-profit and overseen by a board of directors elected by the membership.

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CAROLINA COUNTRY

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On the Cover

Detail from "Winter Wings Over Lake Gaston," an acrylic painting by Dianne T. Rodwell. From the series, "The Four Seasons on Lake Gaston," the scene is looking west at sunset from Eaton's Ferry Bridge. The artist is a Warrenton native who has had a studio at Artspace in Raleigh since 1986. The 16 by 20-inch "Winter Wings" image is available in 250 signed and numbered prints and sells for $75 each, plus $5 shipping and 6% sales tax for each, from:

Dianne T. Rodwell
Artspace Studio 201
201 E. Davie St., Box 15
Raleigh, N.C. 27601
Phone: (919) 664-8908

Our View 4

Mark A. Suggs, manager of Pitt & Greene Electric Membership Corporation, writes about the advantages of recent federal reforms in the Rural Electrification Administration.

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Mark A. Suggs

The new REA: Doing more with less

By Mark A. Suggs

While the NAFTA debate, foreign policy issues and health care reform have dominated the news out of Washington in recent months, Congress and the Clinton administration were quietly working out a plan for rural America.

The plan attracted scarce media attention, perhaps because it was developed harmoniously by Clinton administration officials, lawmakers, lobbyists and people who serve the interests of rural Americans.

Nevertheless, the plan calls for sweeping changes in government programs that will help reduce the federal deficit and improve services to rural America. It involves re-inventing the federal program that finances the extension and maintenance of electric and telephone services into rural areas, expanding the rural development role of the electric cooperatives and completely reorganizing the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

To promote efficiency, the Secretary of Agriculture is proposing a Rural Utilities Services agency to help communities form and maintain:

- water systems
- waste disposal systems
- housing programs
- community economic development programs
- telecommunication initiatives
- energy conservation projects

The mission of USDA's Rural Electrification Administration will change. Its work in assisting rural electric and telephone cooperatives will continue in a new agency that combines other agencies that help rural communities.

The REA will continue to administer loan programs to electric and telephone cooperatives. Interest rates will go up on most traditional loans to the co-ops. They will be issued at the same interest rate municipal electric systems pay their bondholders, which currently is about 6 percent. And, borrowers must continue to obtain 30 percent of a project's cost from private sources.

Some 5 percent "hardship" loans will be available to co-ops serving areas with few consumers per mile of line, low revenue per kilowatt-hour and low average family income. The same criteria will be used to cap the interest rate for some co-ops at 7 percent.

The plan would also reduce red tape to improve the efficiency of REA. When a co-op has equity that is 10 percent above the outstanding balance on their loans, it would be exempt from REA administrative reviews and other paperwork.

The reorganization of USDA is still underway and is subject to change. However, the REA Loan Restructuring Act was signed into law by President Clinton on November 1.

The president called the law "a good example of the government doing more with less."

Bob Bergland, who heads the electric co-ops' national association, said it "sets the stage for a profound change in the relationship between rural electric cooperatives and the communities they serve."

These revisions aren't expected to alter the look of the "new REA" because Agriculture Secretary Mike Espy strongly supports the co-op program as a proven channel for delivering services to rural areas.

The co-ops have "done their jobs well," and they must remain a fixture in rural communities, he said, adding "I'll fight anybody who wants to dismiss the viability of REA in this century and beyond."

These changes in the REA spell good news for rural people and their cooperatives. The news should be welcome to average taxpayers as well, who can find comfort in seeing their government aggressively improving its efficiency and cost-effectiveness.

We in the Pitt & Greene EMC service area certainly will welcome the changes.

Our co-op has worked closely in recent years with the Pitt County Development Commission and the Town of Farmville to establish the Farmville Industrial Park. Pitt & Greene is preparing to apply to the REA Rural Development Loan and Grant Program for help in building the park's infrastructure and one of two buildings designed to house local industry. The sharpened focus of the federal government on such projects is exactly what we need in Pitt County and throughout North Carolina.

Mark A. Suggs is manager of Pitt & Greene Electric Membership Corporation, Farmville.

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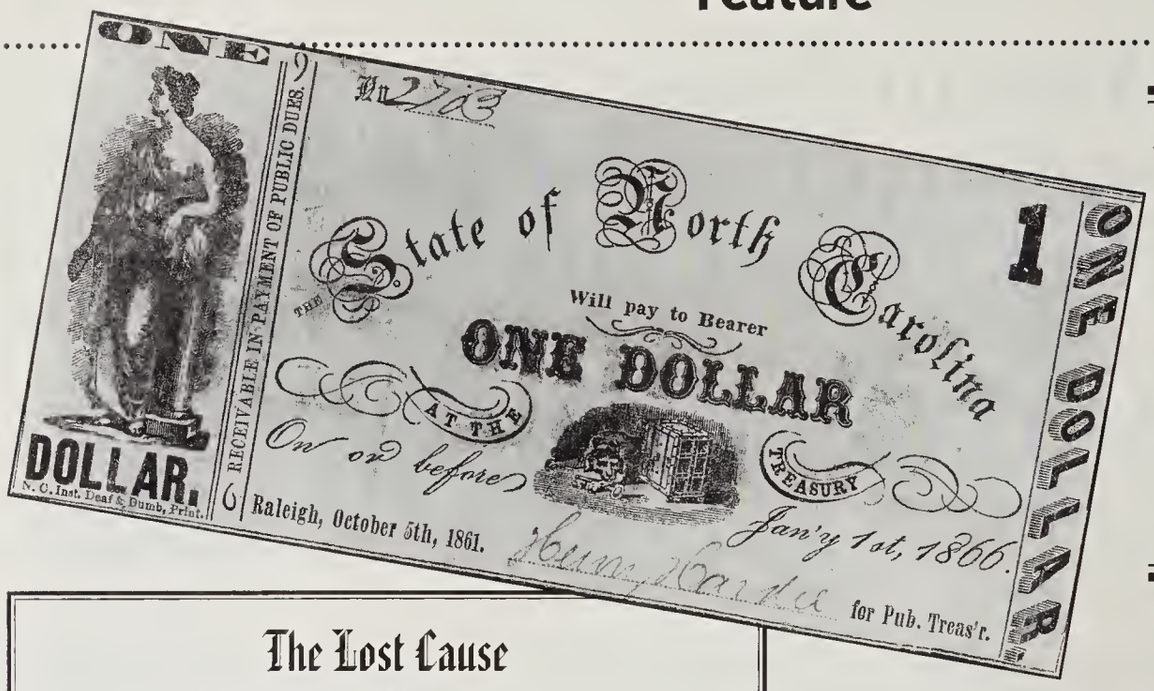


As the war cranked up, so did the printing presses. In 1862 the North Carolina Institute for the Deaf and Dumb printed state treasury notes in its print shop at Raleigh.

The Lost Cause

By Confederate Major A.L. Jonas

Representing nothing on God's earth now,
And naught in the waters below it;
As the pledge of a nation that passed away,
Keep it dear friend, and show it.
Show it to those who will lend an ear
To this tale this trifle will tell,
Of a liberty born of a patriot's dream,
Of a storm-cradled nation that fell.

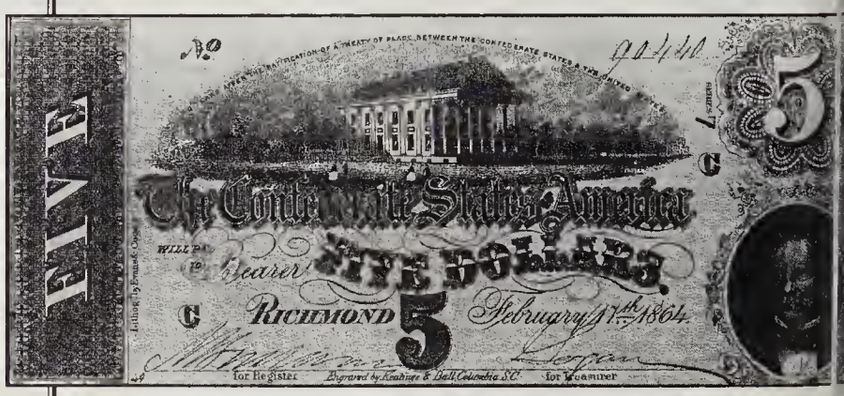
Too poor to possess the precious ones,
And too much of a stranger to borrow;
We issued today our "promise to pay."
And hoped to redeem on the morrow.
The days rolled on, and the weeks became years,
But our coffers were empty still;
Gold was scarce, the Treasury quaked
If a dollar should drop in the till.

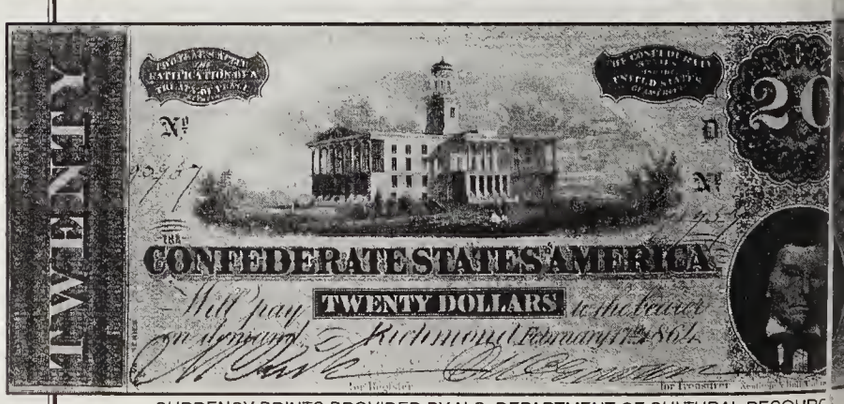
But the faith that was in us was strong indeed,
Though our poverty well we discerned,
And this little note represents the pay
That our suffering veterans earned.
They knew it had hardly a value in gold,
But as gold our soldiers received it;
It gazed in our eyes with a promise to pay,
And every true soldier believed it.

But our boys thought little of price or pay,
Or of bills that were overdue.
We knew if it bought our bread for today —
'Twas the best our poor country could do.
Keep it, it tells all our history o'er,
From the birth of the dream to its last;
Modest, and born of the Angel of Hope
Like our hope of success, it passed.

Confederate currency has value now

By Steven Shaffer





CURRENCY PRINTS PROVIDED BY N.C. DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL RESOURC

The verses, "The Lost Cause," are attributed to a vanquished Confederate Major A. L. Jonas, who reputedly penned them for a friend on the back of a Confederate bill as he was making his way home from the war in the spring of 1865. Indeed the dream had passed —the dream of the Confederate states emerging as a sovereign nation from the horror of the Civil War. And with it passed the shaky monetary system it had spawned.

During its five-year existence, the Confederate government issued billions of dollars in currency and bonds. Not only did the central government — first in Montgomery, Ala., then in Richmond, Va.— issue money, but it gave each of the seceding states the authority to do the same.

In October 1861, five months after North Carolina left the Union, the state began issuing its own currency. By the conclusion of the war, the state's Convention and General Assembly had authorized the printing of over $20 million in state treasury notes in a variety of denominations from five cents to $100 bills.

The South minted no coinage during the war, but fractional currency known as "paper nickels" and "paper dimes" were circulated to take the place of small change. The North Carolina state treasury also issued fractional currency in 20-, 25-, 50- and 75-cent notes.

As the war cranked up, so did the printing presses. In 1862 the North Carolina Institute for the Deaf and Dumb contributed to the patriotic cause by printing a number of state treasury notes in its print shop at Raleigh. But the bulk of the state's currency was printed by private contractors such as J. T. Paterson of Augusta, Ga.; J. Spellman of New Orleans; and W. Borneman of Charleston, S.C. Ironically, most of the contract printers required that payment for their services be in hard gold coin.

Securing paper for currency production was a constant problem for printers, because there was limited paper manufacturing in the southern states, and the Union's naval blockade effectively hampered efforts to have paper shipped from England. Sheets of uncut bank notes located in the safes of private banks were often recycled into state treasury notes by printing new currency on their blank reverse side.

The South's currency was never as strong as its northern counterpart, even when the tide of victory on the battlefield was in the Confederate states' favor. Most southerners recognized this fact and were more than willing to trade in the more stable federal coin and currency when available.

As Confederate treasury notes were backed only by the government's promise to redeem them at the close of hostilities, inflation steadily increased through the war years. In his wartime diary, Henry A. Chambers, a captain in the 49th North Carolina Regiment, wrote on February 17, 1865 that while on furlough in Richmond, Va., he paid the exorbitant amount of $30 for a night's lodging. That equaled almost half of his monthly pay.

In the final days of the Confederacy, as the war situation swiftly deteriorated, the value of southern currency plummeted until it took over 1,000 Confederate dollars to equal one United States dollar. After the guns fell silent, many an eastern plantation owner and mountain dirt farmer alike held on to Confederate notes with vain hopes the state might redeem the worthless bills.

As interest in all facets of the Civil War continues to grow, the collecting of Confederate currency is becoming a popular hobby throughout the country. The state treasury in Raleigh issued over 25 different types of notes in more than 150 varieties. Today's collectors of North Carolina notes have a challenging range of bills to collect.

If you discover some of these historic bills in the bottom of that old trunk you inherited, have them appraised by a reputable coin dealer. They may be worth many times their face value. As with most things that pass, they seem to come around again.

Steven Shaffer is a freelance writer who enjoys collecting Civil War-era currency. He lives in Hickory.

Information in the fast lane

Nine super switches will direct vast amounts of information throughout the state.

By Michael E. C. Gery

The information highway. You'll hear a lot about it this year, because North Carolina's is considered the most advanced information highway in the world. And part of it will be up and running this summer.

What will the information highway do for you?

In time, it may do more than telephone, radio and television combined.

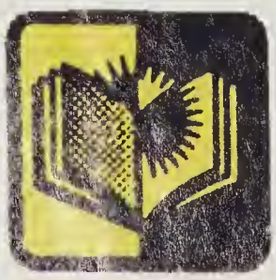
Students will watch and talk with teachers, scientists, writers, coaches, and legislators who are many miles away.

A patient at a hospital west of the Blue Ridge Mountains will be examined and treated by a physician at a Piedmont hospital.

A judge in Greensboro will arraign criminal suspects standing in the High Point jail.

Employees at North Carolina's manufacturers will receive live training in new technology by experts located at headquarters in another state.

Some of these examples are happening in North Carolina now.



EDUCATION

GOVERNMENT

Wired for light

Why is North Carolina leading the way in building an information highway?

"A reporter from Japan just asked m that question," said Rachel Eagles, project manager of the information highwa for state government. "His news bureau reaches 4 million people in Japan. I told him that North Carolina is known for being the good roads state.

"But I also told him that our governo has made this highway a priority, becau it will work wonders for education, crin control, health care and government eff ciency."

Of course there are technological an business reasons for North Carolina's prowess in information exchange.

North Carolina's Research Triangle Park, one of the top high-tech hubs in t world, not only developed and refined telecommunications technology, but its businesses also need a bigger network t compete worldwide.

The leading medical centers associat with the universities in Chapel Hill, Durham and Greenville are pressed to extend their services throughout the sta and beyond.

Likewise, local schools and communities want to broaden and streamline their associations with the state's universities and community colleges.

This drive toward the future has positioned North Carolina as a leader, Eagles said. In the 1980s, North Carolina was the first state to convert its data-voice network from the conventional analog system to a digital one. Only three other states have completely converted, she said. The next step is moving to what's called "broadband" —transmission with uniform efficiency over a broad band of frequencies— for transmitting sound, data and pictures. The system employs fiber-optic cables instead of the common copper wires used in telephone line. These hair-thin fiber-optic strands carry light pulses at the speed of light, and a single strand can transmit, for example, 30,000 voice conversations simultaneously.

The state's system also is the first to employ a state-of-the-art switching technology, called Asynchronous Transfer Mode (ATM), that can handle and connect huge amounts of information. Another feature is the Synchronous Optical Network that allows different fiber systems to interconnect.

Highway Contractors

Building the information highway has not been simple, and it won't be toll-free.

Over the next five years, fiber-optic cabling and two-way video equipment must be installed in buildings, and a system will be devised for assessing long-distance tolls among users.

The project nationwide is compared to the headlong building of U.S. railroads in the latter 19th century and to the interstate highway system built in the 1950s and 60s. While the comparison may be fair, there are important differences.

The railroads were built by private enterprise. The interstate highways were built by the federal government. The information highway is being built by government-business partnerships. In some states, forming those partnerships, Governing magazine reported in October, has involved delicate and sometimes rancorous negotiations over such matters as who lays the cable, who charges the tolls, who has rights to transmit video programs, who will be regulated and how much.

In North Carolina, so far, the negotiations have led to cooperative and friendly partnerships, according to those involved.

"Our partnership between the state government and the telephone companies is unique," Rachel Eagles said, referring to agreements here that have not yet been replicated elsewhere. She credits the leadership of Gov. Jim Hunt and his adviser for policy, budget and technology, Jane Smith Patterson, for insisting upon workable relationships with the private sector.

CRIME CONTROL

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

HEALTH CARE

Here is a summary of who is involved:

• The General Assembly appropriated more than $4 million to bring 100-plus public sector sites onto the network this year, paying some start-up charges for a year and thus assuring controlled deployment and development of the network. State agencies will continue involvement, not only by using the system and offering incentives to localities, but also by regulating services and fees to some extent.

• Southern Bell telephone company is combining its North Carolina fiber-optic facilities, already in place, with the new ATM switches. The first switch sites will be in Asheville, Charlotte, Greensboro, Raleigh and Wilmington. Southern Bell is a division of BellSouth Communications, which serves nine Southeast states.

• Carolina Telephone, serving 50 North Carolina counties, likewise will attach its fiber optic facilities to ATM switches in Greenville and Fayetteville.

• GTE Telephone Operations, the largest U.S. local phone company, also serves parts of the state and will install ATM switches in its fiber optic network at Research Triangle Park, Durham and a site to be announced in western North Carolina.

• Fujitsu Network Switching of America, based in Raleigh, is manufacturing the ATM switches, which will be purchased, installed and maintained by the three telephone companies.

• The 29 local telephone companies throughout the state are cooperating in laying fiber optic cable.

• The federal government is encouraging the North Carolina highway, with Vice President Al Gore leading the charge. Most recently, the Rural Electrification Administration delivered a $484,452 grant to a consortium headed by the University of North Carolina at Wilmington to help purchase two-way interactive video equipment that will link learning centers at three high schools and three community colleges to an existing network in three southeastern North Carolina counties.

State government alone expects to have some 3,300 sites connected to the information during the next few years. Of the first 100 sites to be tested the first year, about two-thirds are ready or have been selected. They are networks already operating or pilot projects in schools, medical centers and government offices.

An example is the state university system's CONCERT network that operates at several places. Controlled by Microelectronics Center of North Carolina at Research Triangle Park, CONCERT serves more than 18,000 computer stations and connects to four National Science Foundation supercomputers, as well as 16 universities, medical schools and research facilities. It provides more than 100 hours of two-way video communica-

tion to 50 classrooms and can connect with the Vision Carolina learning network in the state.

Vision Carolina, a pilot distance learning project, involves two sister organizations: one in Mecklenburg, Gaston and Lincoln counties and another in the New Hanover County area. It is intended to develop and share educational resources over long distances.

Including Rural Roads

North Carolina's information highway will be dotted with signs advertising the state as a good place to do business.

And rural areas are invited to enter the fast lane as easily as urban centers.

When he announced the partnership with private business last year, Gov. Hunt stressed that the state government will ensure that rural communities are not bypassed for market reasons. The widespread fiber-optic facilities here should give rural users equal opportunity with urban users.

North Carolina's approach is for state government to take the lead in using the highway in the public sector, Rachel Eagles said, but some facilities will be available early on for public use by businesses and citizens.

In addition to opening urban-based medical care and educational opportunities to rural residents, the information highway will make it easier and faster for businesses and individuals in the countryside to reach libraries, government offices, and data bases of all kinds using home or office computers. Video technology will make conferences and "face-to-face" meetings possible without the participants leaving home.

Iowa's Gov. Terry E. Branstad, who envisioned the advantages of his state's information highway last summer when flooding isolated Iowa's many rural areas, said the system is "like the Rural Electrification Administration, bringing electricity to rural America."

Already known as a haven for the "knowledge industry," North Carolina's information highway is expected to appeal to newcomers in the business. When Fortune magazine's research firm last year looked at the best places in the U.S. to do business, it cited the state's emerging network: "When completed, this technology will give North Carolina the world's fastest electronic information highway."

Just how fast will it be?

Using the telecommunications technology of 1970, the contents of the 33-volume Encyclopedia Britannica could be transmitted in 84 hours. The technology in place the past few years would send the encyclopedia in 13 hours. On the North Carolina information highway, it will go in 4.7 seconds.

Next month: "Telecommuting" promises new businesses and jobs for rural areas of North Carolina

Today's technology can transmit information as fast as you can read this sentence.

Education will set the pace

Distance learning" will travel early and often on North Carolina's information highway. State officials are concentrating on exploiting public education advantages early in the highway's existence, beginning this summer.

Vision Carolina, already in operation, is a leading pilot project on the highway— a pace car, you might say. Based at UNC-Wilmington, the Cape Fear Educational Partnership Network recently received a $484,452 grant from the Rural Electrification Administration to expand to six new sites.

> ***The whole nation will be watching this.***
>
> Scott Carpenter, Cape Fear Educational Partnership Network

"The whole nation will be watching this expansion closely," said its director Scott Carpenter at UNC-Wilmington's Division of Public Service.

The network in New Hanover, Brunswick and Pender counties is already engaged in distance learning. Using video cameras and microphones, students in specially-equipped classrooms in New Hanover County high schools today can ask questions of their oceanography and Japanese teachers who appear live on TV monitors in the southeastern counties and in Mecklenburg, Gaston and Lincoln counties.

Adding six sites this year will double the size of the network. Connected at present are UNC-Wilmington, Cape Fear Community College, New Hanover and Hoggard high schools and New Hanover Regional Medical Center. The university links them all to the supercomputer at the Microelectronics Center of North Carolina at Research Triangle Park.

To be added are West Brunswick, Topsail and Pender high schools and

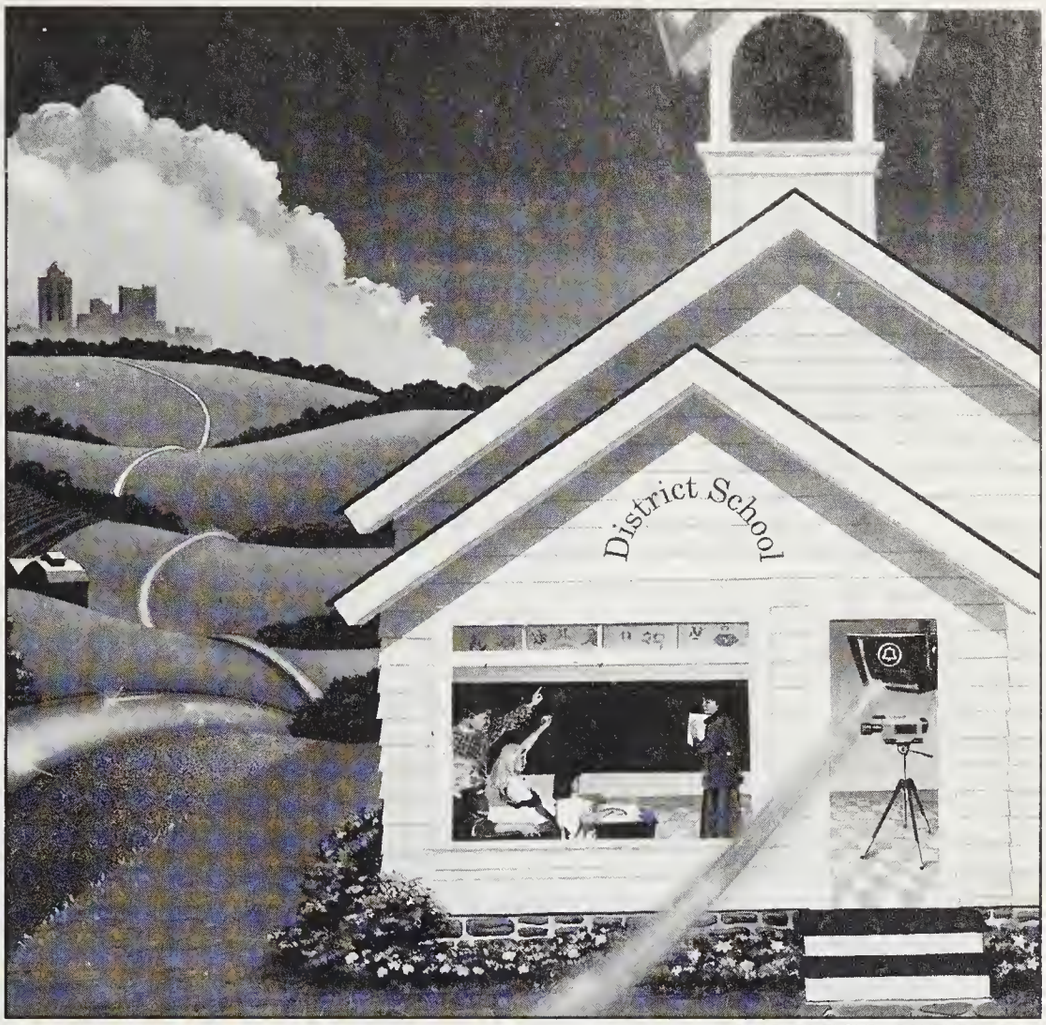
Brunswick and Southeastern community colleges and the Pender campus of Cape Fear Community College.

Carpenter predicts that Southeastern, Brunswick and Cape Fear community colleges soon will share educational programs.

And at West Brunswick High School, Principal Ed Lemon said the school board allocated matching funds to equip a room as a distance learning site, even though the school is cramped for space. He said the opportunities extend beyond teaching to include staff training and development as well, reducing the need for teachers and staff to travel for such training.

Atlantic Telephone Membership Corporation, Carolina Telephone and Southern Bell are laying the fiber-optic cable at the sites.

Participating schools in the three counties pledged more than $120,000 to match the REA grant for outfitting distance learning classrooms with the required environmental controls, security, cabling and telecommunications equipment.



CHARLES FLOYD / SOUTHERN BELL

Major Improvements To Health Care Plan

"There will be no rate increases for the 1993-94 rating period," stated Grange Master Robert H. Caldwell, "and additional benefits are also being added to the Grange BCBS plan!"

Effective September 1, 1993, the Grange Plan will include:

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- A "Wellness Benefit" that pays up to $100 for each covered adult's routine medical exam
- Health Track book to provide health tips to save you money
- Extended Emergency Care treatment period extended to 72 hours from time of an accident
- Four deductibles to meet your needs and reduce your premiums.

Sample Grange Rates Based on PPO Network of BCBS of North Carolina:

PPO
Monthly Rates
September 1, 1993 - August 31, 1994

Age		$200	$500	$1000	$2500
35-39	Ind.	128.50	109.05	92.00	71.75
	P/C	176.95	150.10	126.65	98.80
	P/CH	225.40	191.15	161.30	125.85
	Fam.	319.15	270.70	228.40	178.15
40-44	Ind.	133.20	112.90	95.25	74.30
	P/C	181.55	153.95	129.90	101.35
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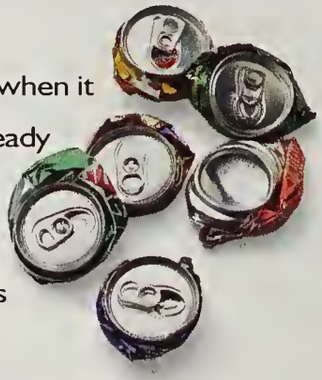

In fact, you probably won't even know when it happens. (Just ask your friends who are already on the program.)

By managing peak demand, we can lessen the need for expensive power plants and help conserve our natural resources.

If you're genuinely concerned about the environment, this is real easy.

So please give us a call.

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Cynthia's Draft Dodgers

Cynthia L. Taylor is an art teacher who doesn't like to waste anything, including time, energy and socks.

One day last winter the wind came cold and blustery off the Watauga County mountains around her house in Vilas. It so happened that Cindy was considering what she could do with some newspaper and a few pairs of her husband's socks which were beyond the wearing stage.

Using her artistic imagination, she assembled some simple devices which can keep out the cold drafts which sneak under doorways.

"They only take about five minutes to make," she says. "Art teachers are used to using newspapers, masking tape and odds and ends to make something."

Cindy wanted to share her "draft dodgers" with fellow members of Blue Ridge Electric Membership Corporation.

"It's like sharing recipes," she says. "In a co-op like Blue Ridge, you're really in a family. It's a wonderful feeling of affinity."

When she was in Illinois not long ago working toward her doctorate in art education, Cindy said she missed Blue Ridge Electric like she missed her friends back home.

"When there's a storm here, we are all out there with coffee and flashlights to help everyone clear the trees," she says. "There wasn't anything like that in Illinois. People would just complain. Here, it's part of living in this area. There's a real camaraderie. We're conscious of our homes, our community and our environment."

Newspaper Roll

Spread three or more newspaper sections horizontally on the floor along the doo jamb. Gently pull the sections apart at variegated intervals until the width of the d has been reached. Roll the newspaper layers beginning with the lower edge closest you, rolling tightly to the upper edge. Seal the edges and reinforce with masking ta Use as is or decorate with scraps of wallpaper.

Sock Stuff

Use two men's dark-colored socks. Stuff each with newspaper, fiber fill, old pantyhose or sand. (You may want to double the socks). Tie the open ends togethe in a knot. Push the sock flat against the bottom door jamb crack with the toes pointing outward to the frame.

If you are handy with a needle and thread, you can sew the open sock ends together. Also, you can cover the stuffed socks with another pair for a neat looking roll.

The "argyle" sock stuff.

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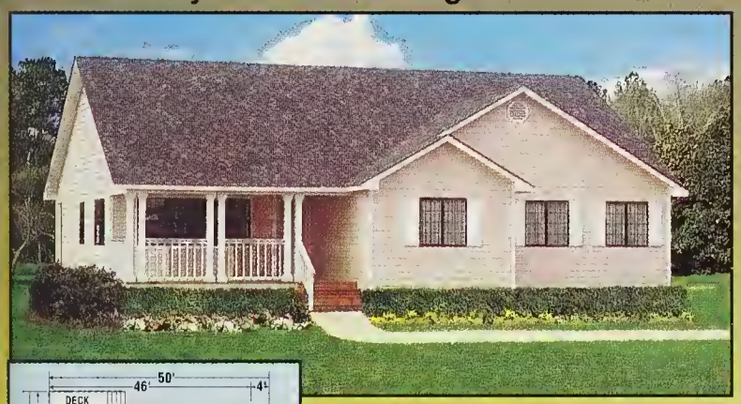

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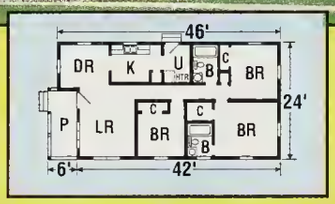

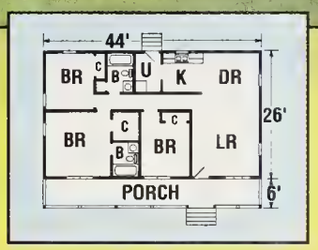

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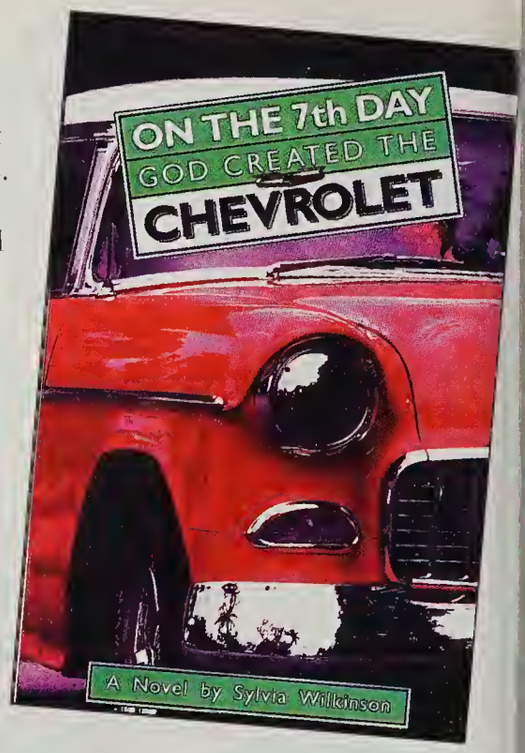
Books

Recent books from North Carolina.

On the 7th Day, God Created the Chevrolet

Sylvia Wilkinson
420 pp., hardcover



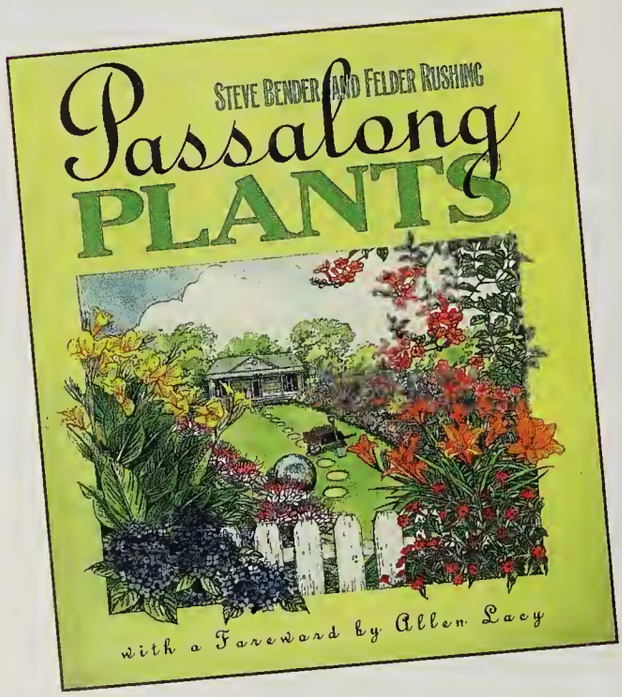
Sylvia Wilkinson's sixth novel rises from North Carolina's world of dirt track stock-car racing in the 1960s. She is a veteran of the track herself and published an oral history of the Tar Heel dirt track 10 years ago.

Raised in North Carolina, the author works as a timer and scorer for such champion teams as Paul Newman, Bobby Rahal and Al Unser Sr. Newman says her novel "brings back the old days of stock-car racing in vivid style. Wilkinson knows her stuff."

Available in bookstores for $19.95. Contact Algonquin Books of Chapel Hill at P.O. Box 2225, Chapel Hill, NC 27515-2225. Phone: (919) 967-0108.

Passalong Plants

Steve Bender and Felder Rushing, 221 pp., hardcover and softcover



"Passalong" plants are not in your local garden center. You get them from a relative or neighbor who has tended them with pride.

This book describes 117 such plants and shows some in color photographs. Plants are those such as flowering almond, blackberry lily and night-blooming cereus. They all grow well in Southern gardens. In an informal, conversational narrative, the authors explain how to nurture them.

If you can't find someone with "passalong" plants to share, the book lists mail order houses that may have them.

Available in bookstores for $16.95 in softcover, $29.95 in hardcover. Contact The University of North Carolina Press, P.O. Box 2288, Chapel Hill, N.C. 27515-2288. Phone: (800) 848-6224.

What Locals Know About Wilmington and Its Beaches

Edited by Ellyn Bache, 221 pp., softcover, illustrated

A guidebook written by six residents of North Carolina's fast-growing beach resorts: Wilmington, Wrightsville Beach, Carolina Beach, Kure Beach, Fort Fisher and points nearby. There are frank evaluations of restaurants, accommodations, recreation, nightlife and shopping, as well as maps and lists of tours and services. The book is well organized and includes inside information about art, the film industry and popular recreation activities.

Available in bookstores for $9.95. Contact Banks Channel Books, P.O. Box 4446, Wilmington, N.C. 28406. Phone: (800) 653-1706.

A War to Win

Harry D. Dunnagan
214 pp., hardcover, illustrated

Told by veterans of the 813th Tank Destroyer Battalion from Fort Bragg, these stories of World War II begin at Smoke Bomb Hill at Bragg and continue in North Africa, Sicily, Italy, France and Germany, plus two "waiting periods" in the British Isles. The accounts are a mixture of personal affairs and real combat.

The 813th was formed under the command of Col. William Walker and equipped with "tank destroyers" which at that stage were half-track armored trucks mounting a big 75-mm. field gun.

The book costs $17.95, plus $2.50 for postage, and is available from Royall Dutton Books, 89 Center Drive, Myrtle Beach, S.C. 29572.

The Papers of David Settle Reid, Vol. I, 1829-1852

Edited by Lindley S. Butler
522 pp., hardcover

Reid (1813-1891) was a Rockingham County native who served as North Carolina's governor from 1851 to 1854, after serving in the state Senate and U.S. House of Representatives. A lifelong Democrat, he also served in the U.S. Senate from 1854 to 1859.

He farmed a plantation on the Dan River near Pleasantville and raised a family there. While not serving in an official capacity, he supported the Confederacy.

Volume I of his papers follow his career through his first term as governor. They reveal a personal and political life during the years leading to the Civil War, including discussion of the state's development, education, tariffs, territorial expansion, slavery and loyalty to the Union.

The book is available at bookstores for $45.

For information, contact the publisher, N.C. Division of Archives and History, 109 East Jones St., Raleigh, N.C. 27601-2807. Phone: (919) 733-7442.

Drawing the Line: A Landowner's Manual & Buyer's Guide

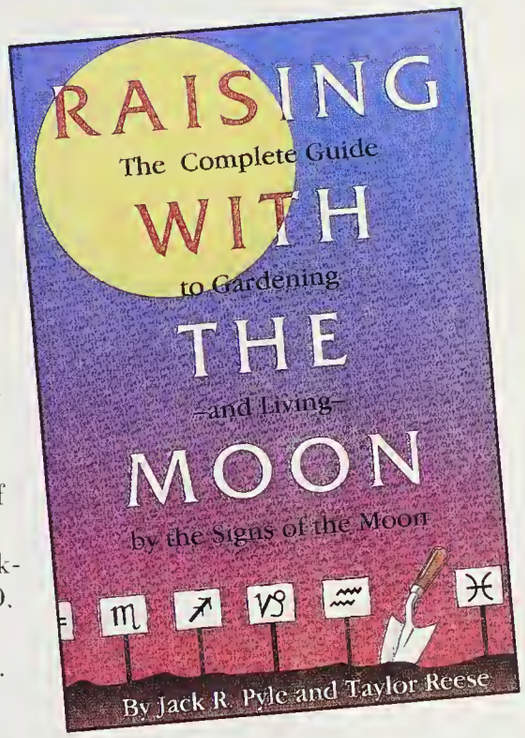
Jerry R. Ryan
118 pp., softcover, illustrated

Ryan is a land surveyor who says land should come with an owner's manual just as dishwashers and popcorn poppers do. His book covers concepts of ownership; services of agents, bankers, attorneys and surveyors; contracts and documents; evaluating deeds and surveys; and methods for protecting ownership and investment.

Available at bookstores for $12.95. Contact TideRunner Publishing, P.O. Box 770, New Bern, N.C. 28563. Phone: (919) 633-6649.

Raising With the Moon

Jack R. Pyle and Taylor Reese
147 pp., softcover

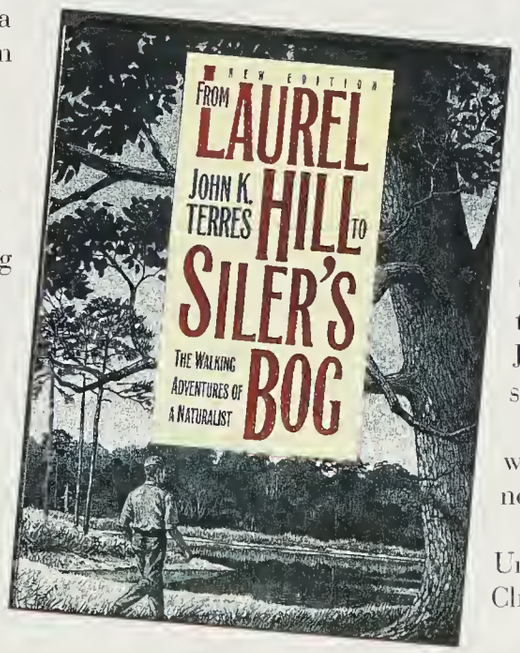


This volume, subtitled, "The Complete Guide to Gardening —and Living— by the Signs of the Moon," is the result of several years of research on the part of the authors, who live in western North Carolina.

They explain the logic of gardening by the signs and offer a guide for calculating the moon's effect on every aspect of gardening. It includes several experiments to demonstrate the importance of sign-gardening.

The book costs $13.95. Look in bookstores or contact Down Home Press, P.O. Box 4126, Asheboro, N.C. 27204. For more information, call (919) 672-6889.

From Laurel Hill to Siler's Bog: The Walking Adventures of a Naturalist



John Terres, 232 pp., softcover

Terres' popular 1969 book, out of print for several years, has been re-issued. It is an affectionate and scientific look at the 800-acre Mason Farm, now part of a reserve given to the University of North Carolina and managed by the North Carolina Botanical Garden. After a historical account of the farm, the nature writing begins in the bright cold of January and courses through the seasons to the story of "the black gobbler of Willow Oak Swamp."

Terres, author of "Songbirds in Your Garden," wrote a new afterword to this book, and there is a new introduction, too, by Peter S. White.

Available at bookstores for $16.95. Contact The University of North Carolina Press, P.O. Box 2288, Chapel Hill, N.C. 27515-2288. Phone: (800) 848-6224.

"Winter Solitude" by Cotton Ketchie

"The historic Vance homeplace is pretty any time of year," says artist Cotton Ketchie, "but I like it best in its winter solitude."

The Zebulon B. Vance Birthplace in Weaverville is maintained as a State Historic Site. Vance was governor of North Carolina for three terms during and after the Civil War.

Cotton Ketchie is a well known North Carolina artist whose gallery in Mooresville is itself a scene to behold.

Prints of "Winter Solitude" are 6 by 8 ⅝ inches (trim size 9 by 12 ⅛ inches) and are printed on 100 percent rag, neutral pH heavy vellum cover paper. Signed and numbered prints sell for $25 plus 6 percent sales tax and $5 for shipping.

Contact Landmark Galleries, 212 N. Main St., Mooresville, N.C. 28115. Phone: (704) 664-4122 or (800) 842-8604.

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75 years on "Gasoline Alley"

Cartoonist Jim Scancarelli calls it "the longest story ever told." The story is about the characters of "Gasoline Alley," a classic American comic strip that turned 75 years old last November.

Jim Scancarelli has been drawing the cartoon from his Charlotte studio since 1979, when he became an assistant to Dick Moores. Moores had been the chief "Gasoline Alley" artist since the late 1950s and drew much of the comic at his Blue Ridge Mountains farm in Buncombe County's Fairview community.

Frank O. King first drew the cartoon in 1918 as part of another strip he penned for the Chicago Tribune. His "Sunday Morning in Gasoline Alley" pictured four cronies working on their jalopies in the alley behind their homes all day Saturday so they could run them a few hours on Sunday. At the time, it was a typical scene of American guys tinkering with their cars, a new-found joy in post-World War I America.

The Tribune's publisher wanted King to broaden the comic's appeal to women and suggested introducing a baby. So, on Valentine's Day in 1921, a baby was delivered to the doorstep of Walt Wallet, one of the four pals and a large, good-natured bachelor in the cartoon. He nicknamed the baby Skeezix, which was slang of the day meaning mischievous child, and a cowboy term meaning motherless calf.

Skeezix soon became as popular as Fred Flintstone became decades later. Department stores carried Skeezix toothbrushes, shoes, marbles and tea sets. Boxes of Crackerjacks included free metal stand-up cameos of Skeezix and Uncle Walt. Columbia Pictures made two "Gasoline Alley" movies. And in the 1930s and 1940s, radio audiences could tune into the adventures of Skeezix.

Unlike in most serial comic strips, however, Skeezix and his friends aged as the cartoon continued. Today, the "Gasoline Alley" garage is managed by Skeezix's daughter, Clovia. Her extended family includes her cousin Adam and his Asian-American wife, who struggle to make a success of a small farm.

Since its beginning, eight artists have had a hand in drawing "Gasoline Alley." After the Chicago-esque look under Frank King, Dick Moores introduced southern scenes he observed at his homes in Florida and Buncombe County. "The tone became more relaxed and southern," says Scancarelli.

Scancarelli studied art, design and printmaking at high school in Charlotte, then helped Charlotte-based cartoonist George Breisacher with his famous strip "Mutt and Jeff." In 1979, Scancarelli met Dick Moores and began working with him two years later. When Moores died in 1986, Scancarelli knew enough to draw "Gasoline Alley" by himself.

"I don't think of myself as the creator," he says, "but rather as the perpetuator."

As Scancarelli roams the North Carolina and Virginia countryside following his avocation — bluegrass fiddling — he also finds scenes and inspiration for his cartoon art. Keen observers, he says, will notice evidence of areas around Charlotte, Greensboro and especially Moorestown in the comic strip.

"Gasoline Alley" artist Jim Scancarelli of Charlotte.

"Gasoline Alley" is syndicated by Tribune Media Services and appears in newspapers throughout the nation, including papers in Roanoke Rapids, Goldsboro and Greensboro.

At 75 years old, "Gasoline Alley" is the third oldest comic strip in the U.S. The oldest is "The Katzenjammer Kids" (1897), followed by "Jiggs & Maggie" (formerly, "Bringing Up Father"). In the book "Comic Art of America," Stephen Becker calls "Gasoline Alley" a "fixture of American journalism" and says "Skeezix is as close to the real American as any character the comics have produced."

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rom Brasstown
o Bath.

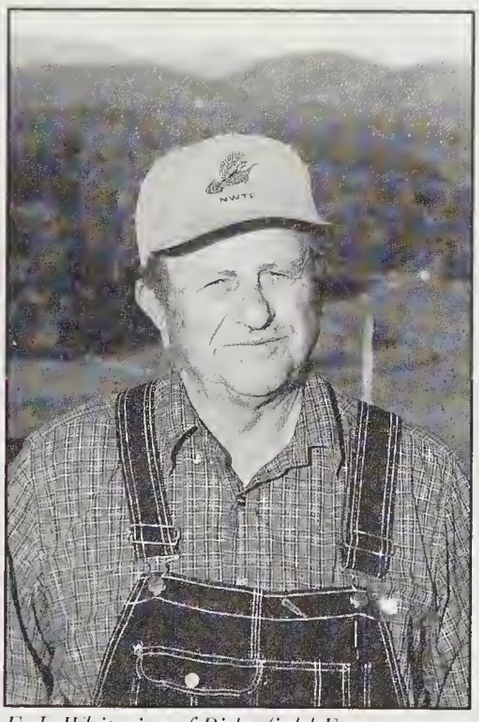
Brasstown rancher wins environmental award

E. J. Whitmire of Brasstown has been named one of seven regional winners of the National Cattlemen's Association's third annual Environmental Stewardship Awards. The awards are presented to cattle producers who use conservation practices to improve the productivity and profitability of their cattle businesses.

Whitmire's farm is served by Blue Ridge Mountain Electric Membership Corporation, based in Young Harris, Ga.

When E. J. Whitmire bought the first 325 acres of his Ridgefield Farm in 1953, he says, it was covered with so much trash that it took six months to clean up. From that beginning, Whitmire has created a 1,000-acre cow/calf operation which is an educational haven for conservation students of all ages.

"There are three things that are requisites in life — clean air, good soil, and clean water," said Whitmire, who works daily to make Ridgefield a place where all three flourish.



E. J. Whitmire of Ridgefield Farm.

With 16 streams flowing through Ridgefield, the farm is an integral part of the watershed of the nearby town of Murphy. Realizing the potential impact of his farm on the town's water supply, Whitmire found a creative solution. He surrendered 35 acres of his farm to stream setbacks and filter strips, and installed 94,000 feet of barbed wire. To allow his cattle to cross streams with minimal impact on water quality, Whitmire installed concrete pads that extended far enough up the banks to prevent erosion.

Because cattle dislike walking on concrete and because their access to Ridgefield's streams is otherwise limited, the animals spend more time in pasture. As a result, Whitmire's cattle have increased in size.

In Whitmire's hands, Ridgefield also has become an educational laboratory. Designated a "Master Teacher" by the state of North Carolina, Whitmire employs college agricultural students during the summer and hosts a wide range of visitors, from elementary and high school students to conservation, forest and wildlife management specialists.

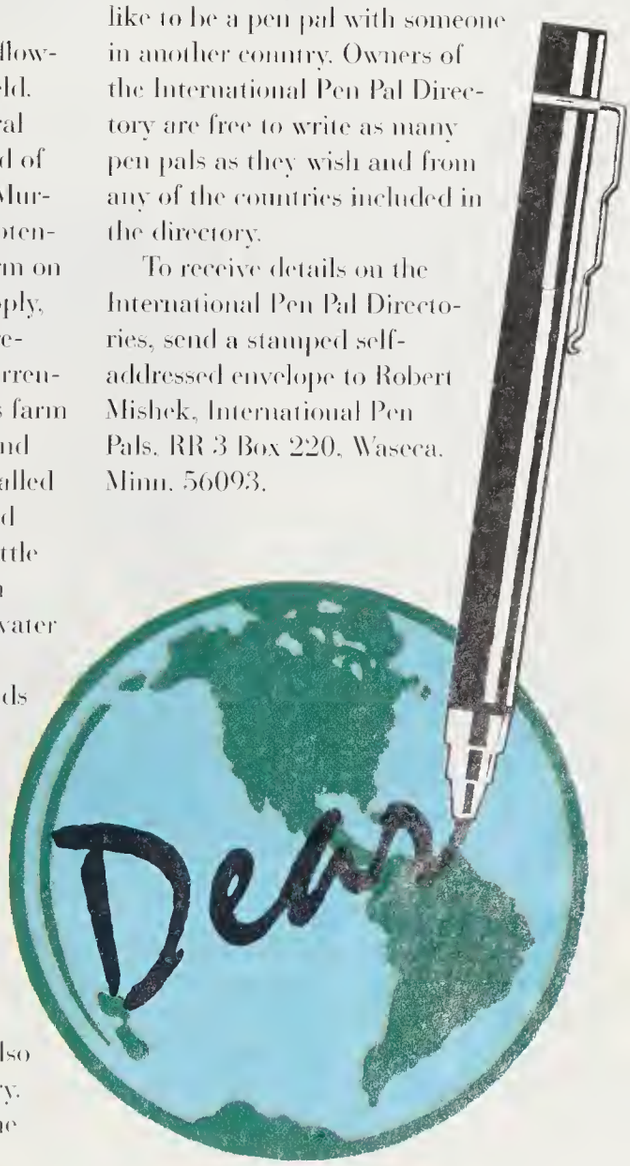
Directory of international pen pals

Each week Robert Mishek, founder of International Pen Pals, receives hundreds of letters from people all over the world interested in finding a pen pal in the United States.

In response to these requests, International Pen Pals has completed two directories with hundreds of these names. Each name includes the person's age, sex and a complete, current mailing address.

The directories are compiled by age groups. Directory #1 includes names and addresses of persons age 20 to 54, while Directory #2 lists names and addresses of persons age 55 to 90. Both directories are available to any adult who would like to be a pen pal with someone in another country. Owners of the International Pen Pal Directory are free to write as many pen pals as they wish and from any of the countries included in the directory.

To receive details on the International Pen Pal Directories, send a stamped self-addressed envelope to Robert Mishek, International Pen Pals, RR 3 Box 220, Waseca, Minn. 56093.



Grass is bluer in the east

The Eastern North Carolina Bluegrass Association hosts bluegrass music fans on the second Saturday of each month at Lenoir Community College, east of Kinston. Bands from across North Carolina and neighboring states perform for audiences averaging about 600 people. Doors open at 6 p.m., and the show begins at 7 p.m. Bands are encouraged to call to reserve a time slot in which to perform.

The Bluegrass Association has operated since 1982 with the help of fans and musicians who volunteer their time and talent for the promotion and preservation of bluegrass music.

For more information, write Eastern North Carolina Bluegrass Association, Inc., 2609 Brookhaven Dr., Kinston, N.C. 28501.

Weeknight TV program shows "North Carolina Now"

"North Carolina Now," a production of the UNC Center for Public Television, will premier Monday, Jan. 17 at 7:30 p.m. on UNC-TV (University of North Carolina Television).

"'North Carolina Now' is not a news program, though it will present news highlights," says executive producer Scott Davis. "And it's not precisely a magazine program, either, though it has elements of that. We're working to achieve a blend that is quirky, informative, and highly watchable — one that truly invites viewers to see North Carolina like they've never seen it before."

The weeknightly series is a half-hour blend of statewide news, business and weather reports, newsmaker and celebrity interviews, and stories about North Carolina people, places and events. There will be regular segments about topics ranging from business updates to the search for the ultimate in Carolina barbecue. Current issues of special importance to the state will also receive regular coverage.

John Bason and Audrey Kates Bailey host the new show.

Series co-hosts Audrey Kates Bailey and John Bason are long-term veterans of public television in North Carolina and of the UNC-TV public affairs series "Stateline/Legislative Report."

Director and general manager Tom Howe brought the concept for a weeknightly series when he joined the Center in November 1992. "As the only statewide broadcasting entity, we at UNC-TV are in the unique position of being able to serve as a primary source of information about North Carolina for viewers statewide," he said.

Historic Bath house re-opens four years after fire

A tragic fire, destroying much of a historic house, has resulted in a more secure restoration of the centerpiece building at Historic Bath in Beaufort County.

As 18th century Christmas greenery sparkled at windows and doors, the 175 Palmer-Marsh house went up in flames. In the wee hours of the morning of Dec. 10, 1989, a passerby called in the alarm. At dawn, when the five fire departments had extinguished the flames, site manager Gerald Butler and his staff were horror-stricken as they examined the damage.

Today, the house is restored and welcoming guests, as it did in the mid-18th century.

After a three and one-half year $300,000 restoration effort, Palmer-Marsh House is dazzling again, with white exterior gleaming in the sunshine.

Recalling the terrifying fire, Butler, still awed, said "Fortunately, the fire departments, site staff and townspeople alike saved almost the entire house contents —one of the finer collections in Historic Sites. Only two pieces too large to get down the stairs were left behind. We lost only a few items, including a porcelain teaset and two traveling chests. Everything saved was moved temporarily into the nearby visitor center," he added.

During the cleanup, the wall plaster was removed, exposing original framing. Historic Sites restoration specialist Bill McCrea wrote that "rarely has there been the opportunity to view the complete framing system of such an early North Carolina building." It is the oldest known example in the state, he wrote.

After the long cleanup process, which included help from Tryon Palace and Historic Bath staffs, many professionals came together to complete the preliminary work. A historian gathered information, the Park Service fed information into their damage-assessment software for a cost analysis, an architect was hired and an archaeologist came aboard to examine the charred attic.

Invaluable advice came from the National Trust for Historic Preservation and Historic Charleston, which remembered their own lessons from Hurricane Hugo.

Construction finally began in July 1992, and was completed in May 1993. During the summer months, the furnishings, stored at Tryon Palace, were dried and cleaned. As their preservation is completed, the major pieces are being returned to the house in preparation for the reopening.

The stately Palmer-Marsh house is the focal point of a long and colorful Bath history. One of the earliest Europeans in the area, John Lawson, explorer, historian, scientist and writer, chose a spot near the Pamlico River in 1700 to settle down with the lovely Hannah Smith. Soon, others came, leading to the 1705 creation of Bath, North Carolina's first town. Since then, the town has survived violent Indian wars, Cary's rebellion, yellow fever epidemics, hurricanes, political rivalries and the Civil War.

Besides the Palmer-Marsh House, Historic Bath State Historic Site includes the c. 1790 Van Der Veer House and the 1830 Bonner House. The St. Thomas church also is located in the town. One of the earliest churches built in North Carolina, it remains the oldest.

A visitor center welcomes guests, and shows a free film outlining details of Bath town with restored buildings much as they were in the 18th and 19th centuries. For details, call the site in Bath at 919-923-3971 or the Historic Sites Section in Raleigh at 919-733-7862.

— *Peggy Howe*

The Palmer-Marsh house in Bath.

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Queen Bed Skirt (14" Drop)		$26.95	
3 Towel Set (Bath, Hand, Fingertip)		$17.95	
Shower Curtain (Standard 69"x69")		$29.95	
		TOTAL MERCHANDISE	$
		SHIPPING AND HANDLING	$ 6.50
		TOTAL AMOUNT	$

Hank's Gardening Guide

by Hank Smith

Midway through winter.

Now's the midway period for winter planting and transplanting of trees and shrubs. Bare-root plants are available at nurseries. These limit you to smaller plants that result in a longer wait for a mature "finished" landscape. But, they are somewhat less expensive than are larger, container-grown specimens.

During periods of mild weather this month and next, finish all major pruning operations before growth begins in the spring.

During temperate days, prune summer-flowering shrubs, check plantings to be certain they are receiving adequate water, apply dormant oil sprays to deciduous trees for control of scales, inspect garden accessories and tools for repairs that might be needed.

Still Time for Camellias

Although autumn planting of camellias is preferred by many specialists, good results can be expected when these are planted as they come into bloom.

This assures that you'll get desired colors and varieties that you may not recognize by the name tag on the plant. During the next few weeks, visit a nursery where you can see numerous varieties on the sales lot — many of them in bloom or bearing fat flower buds. You can make comparisons to aid in selecting plants that exactly fit your landscape needs.

Older plants, healthy plants and dormant plants are less likely to suffer cold damage than are plants that are young, unhealthy or in active growth.

Flower buds on varieties with single or semi-double blooms are hardier than those on double-flowering varieties.

Plant camellias in semi-shade where roots will have good drainage. They prefer a cool, moist condition which helps in making healthy summer growth. The soil mix should be acid; a pH of 5.0 to 6.0 is good.

To allow for settling, set plants slightly higher than they originally grew. Water well and mulch with compost, pine straw or ground bark.

Roses

Now's a good time to plant either bare-root or container-grown roses. Set plants when soil is moist but not wet. Improve poor soil by adding large amounts of organic matter and sharp sand to each planting hole. Use clean builder's sand instead of sand that contains salt from the seashore.

Care of Gift Plants

Flowering pot plants received as Christmas gifts can remain attractive for some time. Proper care will extend their period of blooming.

Since most of these plants were greenhouse grown, they should be provided conditions as near as possible to those in the greenhouse. Gradually adjust plants to your home environment. Give major consideration to light, temperature and moisture.

One common mistake is overwatering. Give them water only when needed — don't water on a set schedule. Plants growing in a cool room need less moisture than those in a warmer, drier location. Flowering plants need watering more often than those without blooms.

All flowering plants need moderately bright light to stay in good condition. However, keep plants that are in bloom out of direct sunlight.

Allow plants time to become gradually accustomed to the new lighting situation. On cloudy days with no sunlight available through windows, it is helpful to place plants beneath artificial light — a fluorescent light is preferred, but a table or floor lamp helps.

Ideal temperatures for pot plants often are difficult to maintain in a home. A hot, dry atmosphere does more to shorten the bloom-life of a plant than any other factor. For most flowering plants, a day temperature of 75 degrees and night temperature of 6 degrees is considered best.

Winter Garden Projects

1. Prepare a sketch of the garden beds you plan to plant in the spring. This aids in purchasing seed for variety selection, necessary spacing, sun-or-shade location, color combinations and soil preparation.

2. Sharpen spades, shovels and hoes with a file so they'll be ready for the seasons to come.

3. Continue planting pansies for spurts of color in mild periods of winter, as well as, masses of early spring flowers in the garden.

4. Prune grape vines and fruit trees.

5. While deciduous trees are bare of leaves, use a sharp saw to remove crossing or broken branches.

6. Drying winter winds can play havoc with newly set plants. Also, drought can be a problem. Don't forget to water.

7. Avoid pruning spring-flowering shrubs as spirea, azalea, forsythia and flowering quince. To do so will remove flower buds.

8. If not already done, divide and reset daylilies.

9. Remove brown foliage from bearded iris.

10. If ground can be worked — when soil is crumbly rather than packed from heavy rains and freezes — you can get the vegetable garden underway late this month or in February.

11. Replenish mulch in shrub beds and rose gardens.

12. Set out onion sets, radishes, peas and rutabagas.

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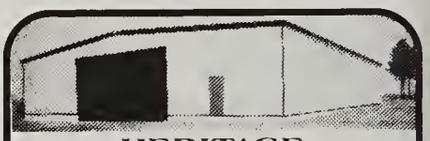

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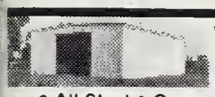

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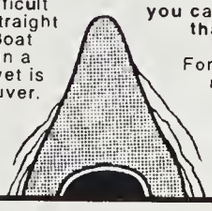

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Journal

by Owen Bishop

Posies make for easy Valentine shopping.

A New Year's toast: coffee mug commentary

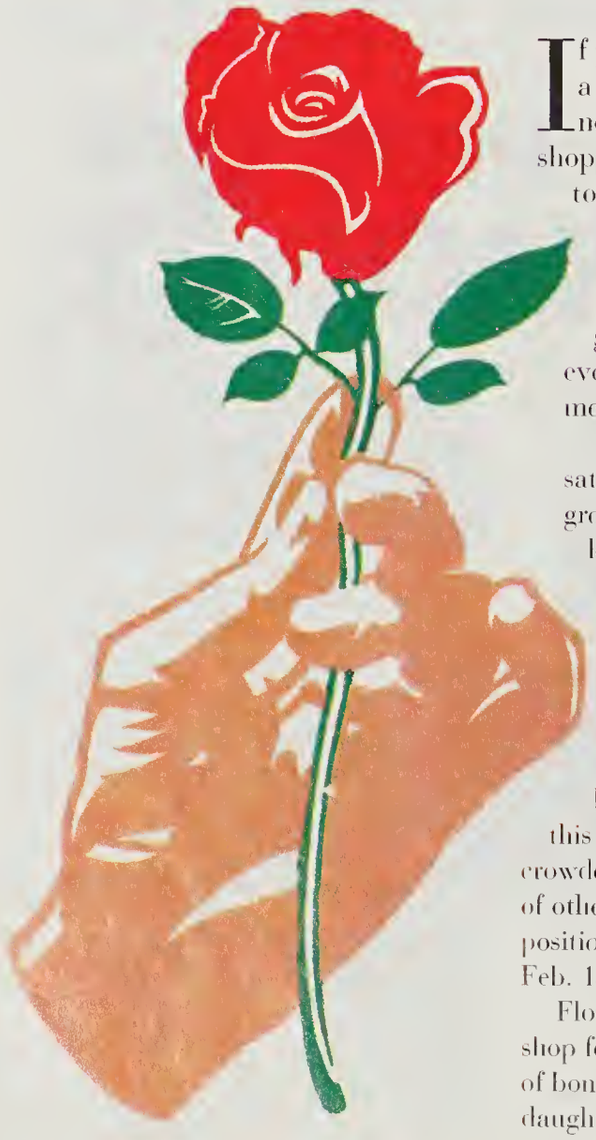
Our traditional toast to the New Year this time around is an item that appeared in a January 1992 newsletter column by Eugene Clayborne, general manager of Carteret-Craven Electric Cooperative, Morehead City. It's a quote he describes as something "worth passing along," saying he didn't know where it originated before it showed up on a coffee mug he'd seen.

Here's the quote and part of Clayborne's comment about it:

> *Each day is a new beginning . . . another chance to learn more about ourselves, to care more about others, to laugh more than we thought we could, to be more than we thought we could, to be more than we were before.*

"New Year's is a time when we tend to think about what has been accomplished and what lies ahead both in our own lives and in the world around us. It is a time for optimism and fresh perspectives. But if we keep this little quotation before us, it will remind us of something we tend to forget: that January 1 is not the only day when optimism and fresh starts are allowed. Each day really is a new beginning."

Watch your language if you say it with flowers



If you're like me, you probably feel a deep sense of relief right about now, as you realize that Christmas shopping, circa 1993, is forever history. No matter how much I may enjoy the holidays, once they're over, I take great pleasure in knowing there is no Yule gift list awaiting my attention at every turn, and next Christmas is a merciful 11 months away.

Sadly, I can rarely savor this sweet satisfaction. By mid-January, I begin growing tense as I see Valentine's Day looming ahead: time to get back in the swing of selecting and buying gifts. I embrace the prospect like a trip to the dentist. I know the experience is almost never as unpleasant as I expect it to be, but I dread it still. Fortunately, I have only a short shopping list for this occasion and the stores are not crowded —except when I join the hordes of other procrastinators who jockey for position at the greeting card displays on Feb. 13.

Flowers are way down the list when I shop for Valentine gifts, except as a sort of bonus. My wife, Cynthia, and our daughters, 17-year-old Melissa and 10-year-old Ellen, certainly enjoy beautiful flowers, but all three generally prefer more durable gifts. They think flowers are fine —as long as the blossoms are accompanied by a "real" present.

Frankly, I like this approach because even the most glorious bouquet will end up brown and wilted. If I'm buying a gi for a real flower fanatic, I'm likely to tr a potted plant. But my choices are usua more limited, and those available often don't have a lot of pizazz.

The down side of this is that I can't plan on one-stop-shopping at my neare florist when it's time to observe special occasions.

Most Americans take a different vie of flowers as gifts: a recent national su vey showed that 95 percent of the resp dents consider flowers to be *the* gift of love. In addition, "bringing or sending flowers" ranked third when the survey asked which gestures make the most la ing impression in the initial stages of a romance. This gesture was mentioned +6 percent of the respondents. It rank just below "being on time" and "comp ments on appearance or personality," which were both mentioned by 52 per cent.

Which gesture do they prefer that t i

significant other use "to add romance" to their lives? Most —55 percent— said, "give or send me flowers unexpectedly." Among women, a whopping 70 percent chose this gesture.

The durable items drew little support in the rankings of gifts that best say, "I love you." Jewelry came in second with a respectable 36 percent, but the others lagged way behind: perfume or cologne, 7 percent; tickets to entertainment or sporting events, 6 percent; candy, only 3 percent.

Clearly, lots of folks like to express their affection through flowers, and want to see it expressed to them in the same way. Flowers have been used like this for hundreds of years, giving rise to a language of sorts assigning special meaning to particular types of flowers: gardenias mean, "I love you in secret;" lilies-of-the-valley, "Let us make up;" and violets, "I return your love."

This kind of language goes even further with roses, according to the American Rose Society in Shreveport, La. It distributes a list of more than 25 messages you can convey using various types of roses, if the language is understood. Using this language can be tricky, of course, because the rose you'd normally choose as a gift may not express the feeling you want to convey. Take yellow roses, for example. They could be considered a sign of diminished love, a plea for the recipient to "try to care." Red roses say, "I love you," but coral or orange roses are a better choice if you want to say, " Please be mine."

Other messages from the list are excerpted in the box at right. You might want to check them out if you plan to "say it with flowers" this Valentine's Day– or if you expect someone in your life to do so for you.

The Language of Roses

Rosebuds: Beauty and youth; a heart innocent of love.
Red rosebuds: Pure and lovely.
White rosebuds: Girlhood.
Moss rosebuds: Confessions of love.

White Roses: Silence. They convey reverence and humility, innocence, purity and secrecy. Also, "You're heavenly."

Pink Roses: Happiness. They symbolize grace and gentility. Deep pink-hued flowers say, "Thank you." Light shades convey admiration and the words, "You're wonderful."

Pale colors: Friendship. Perfect for neighbors and friends you'd like to get to know better.

Dark Crimson: Mourning.

A single rose: Simplicity. Sent in full bloom, it says, "I love you" or "I still love you."

Two Roses Wired Together To Form a Single Stem: A signal of an engagement or coming wedding.

Bouquet of Roses in Full Bloom: Gratitude.

Thornless Rose: Love at first sight.

For a copy of the complete list, write or call the American Rose Society at: P.O. Box 30000, Shreveport, La., 71130. Phone: (318) 938-5402.

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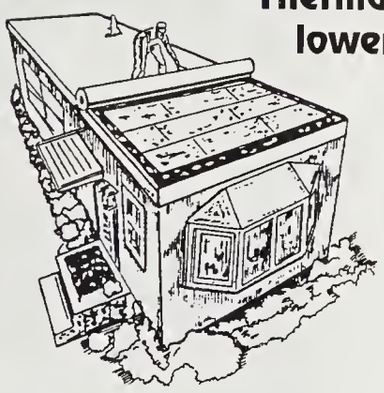

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Submitted by Walter Pitsenbarger, Cary

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6 large potatoes, peeled and chunked
2 tablespoons cooking oil
2 tablespoons brown sugar
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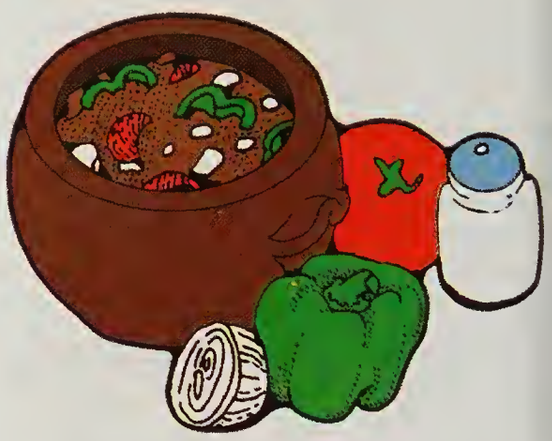
In Dutch oven, cook green pepper and onion in oil over medium heat until tender. Add tomatoes, kraut, carrots, potatoes. Stir in four cans of water. Add Worcestershire and brown sugar. Partially cover. Simmer 30-35 minutes or until vegetables are nearly tender. Add hot dogs, cover and cook 10 minutes more. Serve with corn bread. Delicious!



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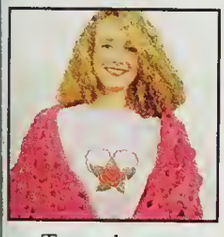

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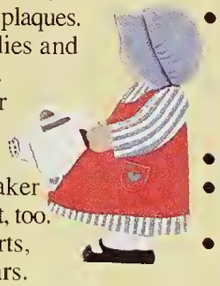

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- Pretty jewelry ideas for girls of all ages.
- Picture-perfect frames, country carousel on a stand.
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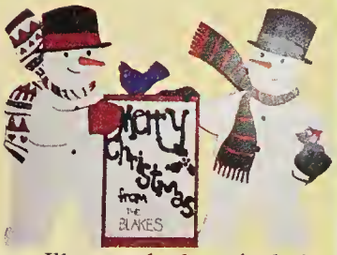

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